

NEIGHBOURING INTERACTION - A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF A
LOWER INCOME AND HIGHER INCOME RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN KULIM, KEDAH

by

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ABSTRACT

The class factor, either measured by the level of income, education or occupation is an important influence on the individual's behaviour. One of this is his relationship with neighbours. The class factor is said to determine the extent and scope of neighbourliness to the extent that in certain neighbourhoods, there was virtually no contact among neighbours. This thesis was an attempt to see how status differentiation influenced neighbouring interaction. It was aimed at comparing the interaction patterns of 2 residential areas in Kulim, Kedah whose background differed in terms of income, educational level and occupation. The main finding of the study was, in the lower income residential area, neighbouring interaction was high but in the higher income residential area, neighbouring interaction was lacking. The study further showed that apart from the variables of income and education, other variables had influenced neighbouring interaction.

For further discussion this report was divided into 5 chapters. Chapter One was concerned with the literature survey, aims and objectives, methodology and a brief outline of the study areas. Chapter Two gave a detailed account of the respondents' background with reference to age, race, religion, income, etcetra. Chapter Three dealt with the findings on neighbouring interaction in the 2 study areas in relation to income, education and sex. This was followed by Chapter Four which was concerned mainly with findings on inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic neighbouring interaction in the 2 study areas. Finally, the conclusion to the whole study was presented in Chapter Five which further included suggestions for future research.